

**City of Burien, Washington**  
**Utility Tax Relief Program For Low Income Households**

**Program Description:**

Eligible low income Burien households may apply annually by mid-December to the City for utility tax relief as follows:

**Electricity and Gas Services:**

Utility tax relief is available for eligible electric and gas customers of Puget Sound Energy. Puget Sound Energy has agreed to manually adjust the bills of eligible low income households so they do not have to pay the utility tax on their bills. Adjustments are not retroactive. Tax relief is for next year.

**Telephone (not including cellular) and Cable Television:**

Utility tax relief is available in the form of a “reimbursement” of some of the utility taxes paid for telephone (not including cellular) and cable television services. Eligible low income Burien households must apply annually by mid-December to receive a reimbursement for utility taxes paid for a single residential telephone line only, and for basic cable television services only, up to a maximum amount. Digital cable packages will be reimbursed up to the basic cable services maximum amount. Tax relief is for taxes previously paid for the year.

**Who is eligible?**

1. Must be a Burien household.
2. Must have income that is at or below 50% of the median income for the Seattle-Bellevue-Tacoma area as defined by HUD

Number of people in household	Annual Income level must not exceed:	Monthly Income level must not exceed:
1	\$29,500	\$2,458
2	\$33,700	\$2,808
3	\$37,950	\$3,162
4	\$42,150	\$3,512
5	\$45,500	\$3,792
6	\$48,900	\$4,075
7	\$52,250	\$4,354
8	\$55,650	\$4,638

3. For the reimbursement for telephone (not including cellular) and cable television, must have paid the Burien utility tax charges on these from the income or resources of the household.

**Eligibility determined by:**

1. Copy of Seattle City Light Electric bill showing Rate 26 or Rate 27 program eligibility (if applicable).

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2. Federal W-2, federal tax return, Social Security statement, and other income verification for all income earners in household if not enrolled in the Seattle City Light Rate 26 or 27 programs.
3. Proof of City of Burien residence (i.e. utility bill showing address, copy of rental or lease agreement). A Post Office (PO) Box in Burien is not acceptable.
4. Proof of payment to each utility (i.e. copy of bill from each utility requesting relief). For Puget Sound Energy relief, we must have a copy of your bill showing your account number.

Must apply once using the attached application, and then renew annually. You may apply in person at Burien City Hall, or by mailing the completed application, copies of income verification, and copies of applicable utility bills to Burien City Hall. Applications are due annually by mid-December and reimbursement checks (for telephone and cable television tax relief) are mailed out by early February. If an eligible household who is receiving utility tax relief for electricity and gas services provided by Puget Sound Energy moves, they must reapply in order to get the billing adjustment at their new address. The utility tax will be reinstated at the old address.

**Utility tax relief available is as follows:**

- **Electricity & Gas:** Puget Sound Energy will adjust the future bills of eligible low income Burien households to remove the tax. The utility tax does not apply to Seattle City Light customers.

“Reimbursement” of the utility taxes paid for the following:

- **Telephone:** 6% of the \$13.50/monthly residential line = maximum of \$9.72 annually for 2008.
- **Cable TV:** 6% of the basic digital starter cable service of \$57.45/month = maximum of \$40.14 annually. This amount will be less if you have the senior/disabled discount, or limited cable service. Cable packages have a maximum of \$41.36 annually for 2009.

Reimbursement amounts for telephone and cable television will be pro-rated based on the number of months which you qualify for the program. There is no utility tax relief for cellular telephones.

Please bring or mail application, proof of income, and copies of utility bills to:

Burien City Hall  
Attention: Lori Fleming  
400 SW 152<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Burien, WA 98166

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Lori Fleming, Management Analyst at (206) 248-5518 or e-mail: [Lorif@burienwa.gov](mailto:Lorif@burienwa.gov).

**City of Burien, Washington**  
**2009/2010 Utility Tax Relief Program Application**

Burien City Hall  
400 SW 152<sup>nd</sup> Street,  
Suite 300  
Burien, WA 98166  
(206) 248-5518

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Household Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Household Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you lived in Burien since January of this year?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no, how many months have you lived in Burien? \_\_\_\_\_

**INCOME VERIFICATION:**

Income may be verified by any one of the three ways below:

Check one:

City Verification

<b>1.</b>	<b>Seattle City Light Bill Showing Rate 26 or 27 Program Enrollment</b> (attach a copy of your bill for verification.)		
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**OR**

<b>2.</b>	Federal Tax Return (attach a copy of your most recent return for verification) Please list your total annual household income: → \$		
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**OR**

<b>3.</b>	<b>If no federal tax return, complete the following and attach copies of statements for verification:</b>		
	100% Social Security (including Part B Medicare)	\$	
	Pensions, Annuities, Railroad Retirement, State/Federal Civil Service	\$	
	Interest & Dividends	\$	
	Wages	\$	
	Business/Rental Income before depreciation	\$	
	All Other Income (including capital gains)	\$	
	Total Combined Income	\$	

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400 SW 152<sup>nd</sup> Street,  
Suite 300  
Burien, WA 98166

**UTILITY TAX RELIEF / REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTED:**

For  
2010  
Relief

**Electricity:** Is your electricity provided by Puget Sound Energy (PSE)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What is your PSE Electricity Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gas:** Is your gas provided by Puget Sound Energy (PSE)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

What is your PSE Gas Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone**

Please check which regular telephone service you had for 2009:

For  
2009  
taxes  
paid

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>TELEPHONE (Not including Cellular):</b>	<b>Monthly Rate Paid (\$)</b>	<b>City staff will calculate your 2009 reimbursement amount (Maximum is \$9.72)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Regular Telephone Line		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Qwest Residential Line		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please list)		

**Cable Television:**

Please check which cable service you had for 2009:

For  
2009  
taxes  
paid

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>CABLE SERVICES:</b>	<b>Monthly Rate Paid (\$)</b>	<b>City staff will calculate your 2009 reimbursement amount (Maximum is \$41.36)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Cable Services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comcast Cable		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please list)		

*(Remember to include a recent copy of your telephone bill & cable bill.)*

<b>Total Telephone &amp; Cable Services Reimbursement for 2009. City staff will calculate this amount. The maximum reimbursement for 2009 is \$51.08.</b>	<b>\$</b>
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I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury, that I have read and understood all of the program guidelines provided on this application, and that all of the information provided by me on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any attempt to falsify my information will result in my disqualification from the program for this year. I further certify that my income status remains the same as presented on my documentation.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For City Use Only:**

City Residence verified: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Low income level verified: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Staff verifying: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Approved ☐ Yes ☐ No